

Welcome...

...to all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire hope; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and yearn for fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whoever will come, this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the name of the risen Lord Jesus Christ. Worship consists of a dialogue between God and His people. God speaks and we respond by grace. The pastor and a ruling elder lead us. ***Please stand, if able.**

Order of Morning Worship

May 9, 2021

Prelude *We prepare silently to meet God in worship.*

***Call to Worship** Habakkuk 3:17-19

***Song of Approach** "King of Ages"

Refrain:

King of the Ages, Almighty God,
Perfect love, ever just and true.
Who will not fear You and bring You praise?
All the nations will come to You.

Your ways of love have won my heart,
And brought me joy unending.
Your saving power at work in me,
Bringing peace and the hope of glory.

Refrain

Your arms of love are reaching out
To every soul that seeks You;
Your light will shine in all the earth,
Bringing grace and a great salvation.

Refrain

The day will come when You appear,
And every eye shall see You.
Then we shall rise with hearts ablaze,
With a song we will sing forever.

Refrain

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***Invocation and Profession of Faith** The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic¹ and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

¹"Catholic" means universal; one church across all times, places, and peoples.

***Hymn 101**

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

Come, Thou Almighty King,
Help us Thy name to sing,
Help us to praise.
Father, all glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.

Come, Thou Incarnate Word,
Gird on Thy mighty sword,
Our prayer attend.
Come, and Thy people bless,
And give Thy Word success;
Spirit of holiness,
On us descend.

Come, Holy Comforter,
Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour.
Thou who almighty art,
Now rule in every heart,
And ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r.

To the great One in Three
Eternal praises be,
Hence evermore.
His sovereign majesty
May we in glory see,
And to eternity
Love and adore.

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 25

Congregational Prayer

Author of all existence, source of all things,
I adore You for making me able to know You,
For giving me a mind and conscience,
For leading me to seek You;

I praise You for Your revelation in the gospel,
For Your heart as a dwelling place for compassion,
Your thoughts of peace towards me,
Your patience and Your graciousness,
For the vastness of Your mercy.

You moved my conscience to know how the guilty
Can be pardoned, the unholy sanctified,
And the poor enriched.

May I be among those who not only hear but know You,
Who walk with and rejoice in You,
Who take You at Your word and find life there.

Help me to be faithful before I profess faith,
To leave the world before I enter the church,
To set my affections on things above,
To be a dispenser and partaker of grace,
To be prepared to bear evil and do good.

O God, make me worthy of this calling,
That the name of Jesus may be glorified in me
And I in Him.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Ephesians 1:7

***Hymn**

"His Mercy is More"

What love could remember,
 No wrongs we have done
 Omniscient all-knowing,
 He counts not their sum
 Thrown into a sea,
 Without bottom or shore
 Our sins they are many,
 His mercy is more.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
 Stronger than darkness, new every morn
 Our sins they are many, His mercy is more
 Praise the Lord, His mercy is more.

What patience would wait, as we constantly roam
 What Father so tender, is calling us home
 He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
 Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

Refrain

What riches of kindness, He lavished on us
 His blood was the payment, His life was the cost
 We stood 'neath a debt, we could never afford
 Our sins they are many, His mercy is more.

Refrain twice

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New Testament Reading

Colossians 1:9-14

Message "LORD, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME TO DO?"***Hymn 642**

"Be Thou My Vision"

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
 Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art -
 Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
 I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
 Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
 Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;
 Be Thou my dignity, Thou my delight,
 Thou my soul's shelter, Thou my high tow'r;
 Raise Thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

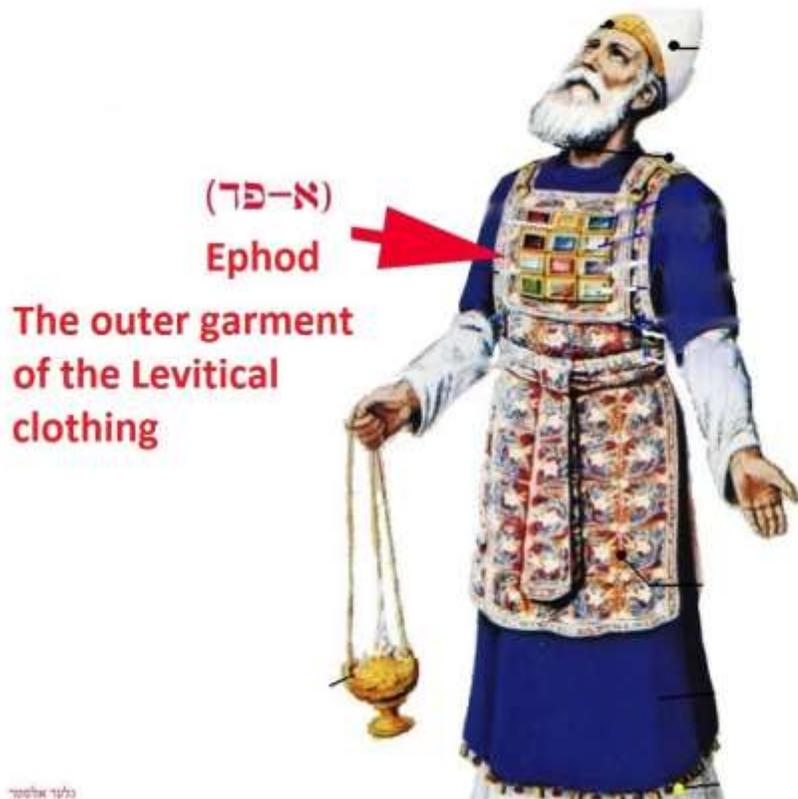
Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
 Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
 Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
 High King of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
 May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
 Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
 Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

***God Blesses His People**

2 Corinthians 13:14

וַיַּעַשׂ אֶת הָאֵפוֹד וְהָב תְּכֵלֶת וְאַרְגָּמָן



“LORD, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME TO DO?”

Psalm 25

“ACTS” – Adoration → Confession → Thanksgiving → Supplication. .
The acrostic helps the memory and adorns the text with some literary beauty. We can't force a structure on it just because we like order. Isn't that a metaphor on life? But pure spontaneity without planning is not advisable either. The acrostic pattern gives a structure on which the themes can be hung, like pegs on a coat rack.

Three themes: pardon, protection, guidance. These flow from the upward orientation of the heart: v. 1-2. Guidance: *“In most cases, God's will is not a mystery. He is good and gracious to reveal it to any who are willing to follow. But it still requires prayerful dependence to make the connection between God's word and our walk.”*

I. WHAT ARE THE PREREQUISITES FOR GUIDANCE?

A. Humility is the First Prerequisite

Humble people do the revealed will of God because He is God and they are not.

B. Fear of God is the Second Prerequisite

John 15:14. God-fearers fear not being the friends of Christ. Spurgeon: “Any person can find out Christ's will if he likes. But suppose you know it is Christ's will, and do not choose to do it – if you put your foot down there and say, “I shall not do it,’ then there is an end of all friendship. Obedience, then, is an essential of true friendship to Christ, for those who make a profession of friendship and don't do what He commands are the worst enemies He has.” Where will this humility and fear come from? Matt 11:28-30.

II. WHAT KIND OF GUIDANCE IS DAVID SEEKING?

A. He is Not Looking for Answers to Specific Questions

Nine times in his life we are told David “inquired of the Lord”: 1 Sam 23:1-3; 4-5; 10-11; 12-14; 30:8-9; 2 Sam 2:1-2; 5:17-21; 5:22-25; 21:1. Urim and Thummim (Ex 28:30). 2 Sam 16:23. 2 Sam 14:2.

Prayer is necessary but not sufficient:

1) *We must apply the relevant Biblical truths.* 1 Cor 12:8; 2 Sam 14:2.

2) *We can learn how to think through problems using good reasoning skills.* We may have our opinions; but do we evaluate the pros and cons of a situation? This is vitally important for leaders. See next page.

3) *Furthermore, we can learn from church history, especially history recorded in the Scriptures.* What does Habakkuk have to say to us?

B. David Wants to Take Steps of Obedience

John 15:15; 2 Sam 6:6; Num 4:6. Without the work of the Spirit we simply don't get the connection between the Scriptures and our own lives. It's theory and not practice. Eph 4:26-27; Matt 28:18-20. Our flesh sees our needs, but the Spirit shows the fields white unto harvest all around us. God is eager to make clear the steps of obedience we need to take.

Conclusion

Verse 11. Eph 1:7.

